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IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraphs of the specification as follows:

On page 2, please replace paragraph [0006] with the following paragraph:

The mobile station communicates with at least one base station during a communication. CDMA mobile stations are capable of communicating with multiple base stations simultaneously during soft handoff. Soft handoff is the process of establishing a link with a new base station before breaking the link with the previous base station. Soft handoff minimizes the probability of dropped calls. The method and system for providing a communication with a mobile station through more than one base station during the soft handoff process are disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 5,267,261, entitled "MOBILE ASSISTED SOFT HANDOFF IN A CDMA CELLULAR TELEPHONE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM," assigned to the assignee of the present invention and incorporated by reference herein. Softer handoff is the process whereby the communication occurs over multiple sectors which are serviced by the same base station. The process of softer handoff is described in detail in U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/763,498, entitled "METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PERFORMING HANDOFF BETWEEN SECTORS OF A COMMON BASE STATION," filed December 11, 1996, now U.S. Patent No. 5,933,787, issued August 3, 1999, by Klein S. Gillhousen et al., assigned to the assignee of the present invention and incorporated by reference herein.

On page 4, please replace paragraph [0012] with the following paragraph:

It is well known that in cellular systems the ~~signal-to-noise-and-interference-ratio~~ signal-to-noise and interference ratio (C/I) of any given user is a function of the location of the user within the coverage area. In order to maintain a given level of service, TDMA and FDMA systems resort to frequency reuse techniques, i.e., not all frequency channels and/or time slots are used in each base station. In a CDMA system, the same frequency allocation is reused in every cell of the system, thereby improving the overall efficiency. The C/I that any given user's mobile station achieves determines the information rate that can be supported for this particular link from the base station to the user's mobile station. Given the specific modulation and error

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correction method used for the transmission, which the present invention seek to optimize for data transmissions, a given level of performance is achieved at a corresponding level of C/I. For idealized cellular system with hexagonal cell layouts and utilizing a common frequency in every cell, the distribution of C/I achieved within the idealized cells can be calculated.

On page 7, please replace paragraph [0021] with the following paragraph:

It is yet another object of the present invention for the mobile station to select the best base station candidates for communication based on the procedure described in U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/790,497, entitled "METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PERFORMING SOFT ~~HANDOFF~~ HAND-OFF IN A WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS COMMUNICATION SYSTEM," filed January 29, 1997, now U.S. Patent No. 6,151,502, issued November 21, 2000, by Roberto Padovani et al., assigned to the assignee of the present invention and incorporated by reference herein. In the exemplary embodiment, the base station can be added to the active set of the mobile station if the received pilot signal is above a predetermined add threshold and dropped from the active set if the pilot signal is below a predetermined drop threshold. In the alternative embodiment, the base station can be added to the active set if the additional energy of the base station (e.g., as measured by the pilot signal) and the energy of the base stations already in the active set exceeds a predetermined threshold. Using this alternative embodiment, a base station which transmitted energy comprises an insubstantial amount of the total received energy at the mobile station is not added to the active set.

On page 34, please replace paragraph [00112] with the following paragraph:

In the exemplary embodiment, the forward link supports two data packet formats, which are illustrated in [[FIGS.]] FIGs. 4E and 4F. Packet format 410 comprises five fields and packet format 430 comprises nine fields. Packet format 410 is used when the data packet to be transmitted to mobile station 6 contains enough data to completely fill all available octets in DATA field 418. If the amount of data to be transmitted is less than the available octets in DATA field 418, packet format 430 is used. The unused octets are padded with all zeros and designated as PADDING field 446.

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